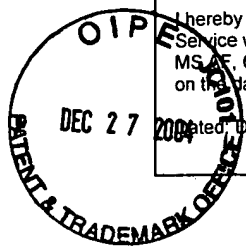


AF/1653



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.
Date: December 22, 2004 Signature: Judy Caleh
(Judy Caleh)

Docket No.: 251002009400
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Eiko SEKI et al.

Application No.: 09/994,573

Filed: November 26, 2001

For: METHODS FOR PRODUCING PROTEIN
DOMAINS AND ANALYZING THREE
DIMENSIONAL STRUCTURES OF
PROTEINS USING SAID DOMAINS

Art Unit: 1653

Examiner: H. Robinson

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office Action herein, mailed 10 September 2004, time for response to which was set to expire 10 December 2004. A petition for an extension of time of one (1) month until 10 January 2005 is attached hereto, along with the required fee. The pending claims, claims 1, 3-7 and 10-23, were rejected and the rejection was made final. Applicants greatly appreciate the courtesy and thoughtfulness extended their undersigned representative by Examiners Robinson and Weber in a personal interview on 21 October 2004. Applicants particularly appreciate the helpful suggestions of Examiner Weber in amending the claims for clarity. These suggestions have been gratefully adopted in the amendments that follow. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.